UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26041
6 July 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE VERBALE DATED 1 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BULGARIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the United Nations Security Council and has the honour to transmit the following text of a note verbale dated 30 June 1993, from the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria addressed to the President of the United Nations Security Council:

"The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria presents its compliments to the President of the United Nations Security Council and has the honour to declare the following:

The Republic of Bulgaria strictly implements the UNSC Resolutions with regard to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). It has declared its readiness to continue to abide in good faith by the obligations under those resolutions.

At the same time the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria would like once again to draw the attention of the Security Council to the fact that the strict implementation of the trade and economic sanctions introduced by the above-mentioned resolutions is incurring great losses to the national economy of Bulgaria. All this was pointed out in its Memorandum of 7 May 1993 and its Memorandum of 17 May 1993.

The restrictive transshipment regime through the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) established by the respective resolutions has considerably disrupted the traditional trade and economic links of Bulgaria with the countries of Central and Western Europe. Their markets are of vital importance for the development of the process of economic reforms since over 60 per cent of the Bulgarian exports to Europe is effected through the area under sanctions. One should also bear in mind that as a traditionally big international road transporter Bulgaria sustains significant losses due to the abrupt shrinkage in the total transit road transport through the area.

We are especially concerned by the almost complete termination of transshipment operations through the territory of FRY, given that there is only one bridge on the Danube along the Bulgarian sector through which all road traffic to Central and Western Europe has to be channelled and that this bridge, even under normal circumstances, is overloaded and in bad

technical condition. The provisions of Resolution 820 (1993) seriously affect the normal usage of the Danube which is the only river navigation route connecting our country with the rest of Europe.

The use of roundabout routes with very heavy traffic even under normal conditions raises the cost of Bulgarian exports and has an extremely negative impact on their realization. All this leads to the speeding up of the process of inflation, aggravates the financial situation in the country and the future possibilities for servicing the foreign debt, brings about serious social consequences within the country. We are faced with a number of dangerous strikes of the private road transporters which are threatening to block the road transport and even the passenger transport in some towns of the country.

In view of the above circumstances, the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria has called urgently upon the Security Council to consider, as a matter of priority, the possibilities for adopting the necessary steps to ease the transshipment regime through the territory of FRY (Serbia and Montenegro) including the Danube, while at the same time the strict implementation of the prohibitions and restrictions with regard to the import and export of goods and products to and from its territory is guaranteed by respective control measures. Most regretfully, it has to be stated that Bulgaria has not received as yet a satisfactory answer from the UN and the other respective international institutions with regard to its well-grounded and rightful demands.

More precisely, the Government of Bulgaria has in mind the following specific proposals:

1. Establishment of a road transshipment corridor through the FRY/Kalotina, Nis, Belgrade, Novy Sad, Subotitsa and Szeged/.

The transshipments through the corridor should be regarded as a measure of an exceptional nature pursuant to paragraph 22 (c) of Resolution 820 (1993), the permission for them to be given by the UN Sanctions Committee under the expedited no-objection procedure. The transshipments along the Serbian section of the road could be carried out under effective measures for monitoring and control agreed upon with the Sanctions Committee and the respective Sanctions Assistance Missions. In addition to the monitoring and control procedures applied at the moment pursuant to the Revised Consolidated Guidelines of the Committee (S/AC.27/1993/CRP.3/Rev.2 of 26 April 1993) a number of options for reinforced control and verification could be considered, among which the following:

- the formed convoys to be escorted along the whole Serbian section of the route by an appropriate number of international observers;

- use of appropriate electronic devices for verification that the vehicles or the cargo are not diverted or unloaded on Serbian territory.

2. Measures for facilitating transshipment on the Danube.

We suggest that a simplified and accelerated notification procedure for transshipment on the Danube be introduced. For this purpose such traffic could be organized through the formation of convoys of vessels subject to effective monitoring and control while passing along the Serbian sector between Vidin/Calafat and Mohacs, including international observers on board, electronic devices, etc. The application of such measures would eliminate the possibility for diverting shipments to FRY in violation of the sanctions.

The Bulgarian Government is willing to participate in the discussions of the practical modalities of the implementation of the above-mentioned proposals and to cooperate fully with the Security Council and the Sanctions Committee.

The Bulgarian Government insists once again that the above-mentioned proposals and any other possible solutions for alleviation of the deteriorating economic situation in the country which will lead to dangerous social protests be urgently considered. One has to bear in mind that at the cost of significant losses and privations Bulgaria is observing and will continue to observe in the future the embargo despite its non-observance along other borders of FRY. The threat to the social peace in the country is increasing due to the expected mass dismissal of employees and the bankruptcy of many companies, due to the already started mass protests and strikes of transport companies and the existence of strong public pressure on the Government to solve the problems resulting from the implementation of the sanctions.

Stating its readiness to continue the strict observance of the UN sanctions, the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria is expecting a definite positive answer to all the questions raised."